



## Arlington Tree Committee

Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Zoom meeting – **You must Register in advance for this meeting:**

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlkf-utqz8rGtSmWPfDkvy2mqTirJhKNbXa>

You will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting.

### Minutes

*In attendance:* Ed Trembly, Eliza Burden, Phil Tedesco, Susan Stamps, Steve Moore, Mary Ellen Aronow, Mara Vatz, Keith Schnebly. *Visitors:* Lynette Culverhouse, Beth Melofchik, Jo Anne Preston, Gina Sonder, Beth Cohen, Ellen Cohen, Peg McAdam

Note: The original meeting scheduled for March 10 was rescheduled to March 16 due to technical difficulties.

1. *Approve February Meeting Minutes - APPROVED*

2. *DPW Tree Department Update (Tim)*

- Tree hearing(s) – none at this time
- Tree Bylaw activity – 2 Tree Plans submitted by Seaver:
  - 36 Homer Street (tree plan submitted: no trees to be removed, several protected)
  - 177 Mountain Ave (tree plan submitted: no trees to be removed, several protected).
  - Tim also mentioned that on our ‘Sample Tree Plan” should include what a site engineer’s “stamp” looks like as is specified in the instructions
- Spring planting: Placed order for ~200 bare root trees. Tim said there are some street tree requests in Q/A but not enough so there was a recent Town notice sent out to solicit tree requests. Eliza also posted this request to FB and IG. Tim also identified approximately 20 planting locations near sites that recently lost trees due to development. B&B trees are also being planted at cemetery and along bike path at Lake St. ~200 trees. Delivery /planting probably early May. One visitor commented that our promotion of tree planting is a bit confusing when it comes to distinguishing between trees grown on public vs private property.
- Green infrastructure (tree trenches, permeable surface around street trees) – in neighborhoods that have a propensity to flood, town is installing a ‘fresh drain’ type system that will capture the water. Four of them are built in East Arlington (near Waldo/Marathon St.), and trees will be planted near them to add additional water holding capacity. Tim will be doing outreach with neighborhoods to share the new system.
- Other: potential Arbor Day activities (at school, or cemetery around the B&B trees). Maybe ATC could ask ACMI to record (as long as kids could be excluded from any recordings)

3. *Development in Town with potential to impact trees (ATC subcommittee reports)*

- We discussed the possibility of ATC members becoming a liaison with another town ‘land’ committee/commission/organization to check in with agendas/minutes, and speak, where appropriate for tree-related items, and report to the ATC. Members volunteering:
  - School Committee: Mara
  - ZBA: Steve Moore

- Conservation Commission: Keith
  - ARB: Eliza
  - Parks/Rec: Phil
  - Open Space:
- Brief update on Mugar. Nothing new to report on Mirak's 1165R Mass Ave, AHS or the Mass Ave Hotel

4. *Adopt-a-Tree Program (2021 program) (MEA/EB)*

- Promote program widely; outreach to ACMI, schools, etc; involve other ATC members.

5. *Report from Subcommittee re: Expanded Tree Planting in Town (Keith, MEA, SS, EB, SM)*

- Arlington Housing Authority planting (esp Chestnut Manor, Menotomy Manor). Communicated with a letter to AHA about trees, and asking for AHA to provide a letter of approval to receive trees.
- Use mapping to replenish tree canopy in Bylaw areas
- Explore additional tree planting in hot zones. The current Heat Map of the town was displayed, showing this as a tool that Tree warden uses to target planting more trees in these hot zones. Subcommittee also wants to use this tool to promote planting in these hotter areas; will look into communicating with apts, schools, churches, businesses in these zones. Steve is collecting apartment complex info and visual inspection of areas where to plant trees.
- Two recent Arlington reports feature tree planting recommendations for energy efficiency and climate resiliency: The MVP "Community Resilience Building Workshop Summary of Findings and Recommendations" (2018), and Arlington's Net Zero Action Plan (2021). Links to these reports:
  - <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=43409>
  - <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=55139>

6. *Community Tree Canopy Program – Spring 2021/Timeline for promotion (Keith/MEA)*

- Expansion of program (churches, apartments, businesses, residents)
- Target areas that have lost trees to development

7. *Publicity/Community Outreach*

- Website update has been completed but not loaded yet
- Fix link to Construction Guidelines on the Town website (Mara). Mara will show Tim the adjusted construction guidelines for approval.

8. *New Business*

- Keith will arrange Zoom meetings for another 3 months
- Visitor Lynette Culverhouse presented to ATC her warrant article presented to Town Meeting: proposing a moratorium for 2 years to stop the teardown of small, affordable housing until the town can figure out a better way to get more affordable housing into Arlington without taking down existing affordable housing, removing trees, etc. She will forward the article to ATC members for review.
- Beth M mentioned that Town meeting members could help get the word out about new trees and be asked where to put in trees
- Beth M mentioned several places that could use additional trees: along Mystic (e.g. Russell parking lot); Knights of Columbus, Buzzell Field (Water Street and Mill Street)
- Visit Beth M mentioned her Citizen warrant Article: Tree Canopy is an environmental resource that contributes to health of the community
- Joanne Preston: remarked that teardowns are one of the leading reasons for losing tree canopy in town and noted that urban trees are best way to sequester carbon
- Wicked Hot Mystic: a program initiated by Mystic River Watershed Authority. Grant money received to address heat issues in the watershed. ATC communicated with MyWRA re: collaboration.

- Children's Room – non-profit along Mass Ave. could plant 2 shade trees. Need to develop criteria/instructions for donating trees

**Next meeting:** April 14, 2021.

Adjourn 9:07pm